

Overseas statistics remain bright

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Overseas Baptists related to Southern Baptist missions baptized 156,326 people in 1984, a seven percent gain over 1983 figures.

The total represents about one baptism for every 11 members, compared with a U.S. ratio of one for every 39 Southern Baptists.

Nearly a third of the baptisms, some 49,200 were reported in Brazil, along with approximately 18,500 in Nigeria, 12,600 in the Philippines, 8,700 in Tanzania (one for every five members), 8,700 in South Korea (one per six members) and 6,700 in Mexico (one per seven members).

Overseas church membership rose to 1,910,483, almost a 12 percent gain.

Almost half the 200,000-member gain came from Nigeria, where Baptists updated their membership figures to correct previous membership totals. Nigerian Baptists now number almost half a million, second only to Brazil among the 105 countries where Southern Baptists have missionaries.

The number of churches increased to 14,791, up almost nine percent over 1983, and self-supporting congregations increased dramatically to 12,076, up more than 23 percent. Mission points increased by 784 to 17,779.

For the second year, one of the brightest spots in the overseas report was in seminary enrollment. More than 8,900 were studying in overseas seminaries, a gain of 22.4 percent over

1983. An 18 percent gain had been reported in 1983. Another 7,800 were enrolled in extension theological training.

The number of pastors leading overseas churches increased to nearly 12,900, up 18.6 percent.

In the midst of global economic instability, overseas Baptists gave the equivalent of \$76.7 million in church offerings, \$4.2 million more than 1983.

The increases reflect growing cooperation among national churches and conventions and Southern Baptists, according to Charles W. Bryan, Foreign Mission Board senior vice-president for overseas operations.

"We have missionaries and national

leaders now, more than ever before, we are planning together, praying together, agonizing together, suffering together, and consequently they also are reaping together," Bryan said.

Other key factors in the growth are a sharpened focus on planning and

"We need more preachers, more evangelists."

prayer, Bryan added. "Growth and vitality are maintained by taking deliberate actions," he said. "They don't just happen. There's more planning going on . . . on the part of national leaders and missionaries.

"Missionaries are asking for prayer in the same way (the Apostle) Paul did," Bryan continued. "He asked the churches to pray for him. Missionaries are supplying prayer requests and asking people to pray more than ever before."

The number of missionaries, including 343 new appointees, increased to 3,432 at the end of 1984, and the two-year period since 1983 reflected

the lowest resignation rate since 1965-1966.

Missionaries were assigned to three new countries: Finland, Pakistan, and Sierra Leone. One country, Mozambique, was re-entered and Okinawa is now listed under Japan.

But, Bryan stressed, "We need more preachers, more evangelists." There are 505 unfilled overseas requests for new missionaries to do evangelistic and church planting and development work.

In Ethiopia and other rain-starved areas of Africa, and elsewhere in disaster and relief situations, missionaries administered \$8 million in hunger funds donated by Southern Baptists—up from \$6.6 million in 1983—and some \$558,000 in general relief funds.

The year saw a significant increase in volunteers, with a total of 6,213 long-and short-term workers, compared to 4,735 in 1983 and 5,749 in 1982. Baptists participating in Partnership Evangelism between overseas and U.S. state conventions totaled 1,354, up fully 40 percent over 1983.

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 7, 1985

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China native goes home for ministry memories

By Tim Nicholas

When retired foreign missionary Cornelia Leavell visited China in January to retrieve the remains of Bill Wallace, martyred missionary doctor, the Starkville resident returned to a world that had been closed to her for 35 years.

Born in Wuchow, China, June 2, 1914, Miss Leavell was the daughter and only child of missionary parents from Mississippi. Her father was from Oxford, her mother from Bell Station (where Ft. Campbell is now located.)

It was because her father got sick that Bill Wallace was appointed to Wuchow. George Leavell, a missionary doctor, caught a sprue, a chronic blood deficiency and had to return to the states. So Wallace was named to replace Leavell at Stout Memorial Hospital which Leavell had built in Wuchow.

In 1983, before any knowledge had surfaced concerning Wallace's remains, Miss Leavell, James and Corrine Hollis, and Betty Vaught visited Wuchow, depending entirely on Miss Leavell's Chinese language fluency. They made it to Stout Memorial, now the Working People's Hospital, and found that staffers remembered Miss Leavell.

She stepped out back to the former missionary compound which she recalled as being beautiful. "We moved there when I was two years old," she said. However, her house, which was still standing, had had its wide porch filled in and the beauty scrubbed away. "I was so upset, tears flowing down my face," she said.

The Americans visited the Three Self Church, formerly the Alliance church (the Baptist church is now a clothing store) and Miss Leavell remet a woman with whom she had grown up. The woman was the daughter of her parents' housekeeper and as children, the girls played and studied together. "She was my best friend," recalled Miss Leavell. "We had chicken pox and measles together."

The short visit was soon to be repeated for Miss Leavell, for a message came to her in Hong Kong where she was serving as a volunteer in the Baptist mission that the government was eager to get Wallace's remains to her sister.

It was in Hong Kong that Miss Leavell completed her own career as a foreign missionary officially in 1982. She had returned to the States with her parents and went to Blue Mountain College. She earned a masters degree from Peabody and taught a year at Bristol, Tenn., where her father continued to practice medicine for 25 years. Then she earned a master of religious education at what was then Woman's Missionary Training School at Southern Seminary, and was appointed to foreign missions in 1942.

Miss Leavell went to Berkeley, Calif., for language school then spent four years in Hawaii. In 1946, she began three years' service as a kindergarten teacher in Shanghai, attending the same church she had worshipped in in high school. When the

Communists took over in 1949, she returned to Hawaii and stayed till 1963. Then till 1982, she was registrar for the Baptist Hospital and worked in the mission office in Hong Kong. Two weeks after retirement she went back for six months in the Baptist Clinic in Hong Kong.

And then she again served as a volunteer in Hong Kong from last August till January 1985. It was during this time, she made arrangements to return to Wuchow to retrieve Wallace's remains.

Able to speak like a native, Miss Leavell and her traveling companions Bob Davis and Betty Vaught traveled into China with ease, meeting a number of former colleagues of Wallace, who had died in prison in 1951 after the Communist takeover of China. They obtained proper papers from Wallace's sister in the States and from the Foreign Mission Board and after shuttling around the 250,000 city of Wuchow, Wallace's remains were cremated and Miss Leavell returned to the home of Wallace's sister so that he could be quietly buried.

This most recent trip gave Miss Leavell more information about Baptist work in China. She discovered that a number of churches are reopening around the country. Kwang Si Province, for instance, she said had 2,000 awaiting baptism. "Every city has a church — they're coming out of the woodwork," she said.

She remet a physician who had played as a boy with missionary kids David and Dan Ray. Dan Ray is now



Cornelia Leavell, a member of First Church, Starkville, reminisces about her growing up in China and a recent trip back there. (Photo by Linda Moore, a student at Mississippi State University.)

a missionary to Korea. She was called by her full Chinese name by people who remembered her. And this time, she saw her old house and the bricking had been removed from the porch, recapturing much of its former beauty. She pointed out to her hosts where she had buried her worn out dolls and goldfish in the compound and she had her picture taken there.

As the three travelers prepared to go back to Hong Kong, Bob Davis, asked the pastor, Fon, to pray for their trip back. "He prayed the most

beautiful prayer . . . for safe travel . . . for bringing the Westerner to China . . . and for the message that had borne fruit," said Miss Leavell.

She returned to her apartment in the home of Marvin and Jean Bond in Starkville after personally delivering the ashes of Wallace to Knoxville, where his sister lives. She was tired she said, but in the telling of her story, the satisfaction still shone in her face, the satisfaction of a good deed done and the knowledge that the gospel still touches hearts everywhere.

Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Thanks, Hawaii Baptists

More than four million people flock to Hawaii's beautiful islands during the course of a year to spend vacation time there. Assuming that each one stays about a week, that means that every day in Hawaii there are 80,000 visitors looking for someplace to stay and a place to eat.

That doesn't sound so bad until one realizes that only about one million people are permanent residents of the state, and one gets the impression that probably eight out of 10 of them live in Honolulu. Eight out of 10 of the tourists are there also, and that means that there must be about 65,000 extra people in Honolulu at any given time.

That's a lot of people to be milling around in a town who are not residents of it. But Honolulu has made ample provisions for hosting this horde, and the islands are a marvelous place to visit.

One feels as if he were in a foreign country; and, indeed, until about the turn of the century, it was a foreign country. But the residents speak English, and they are very gracious.

This is one state of the United States that has its own language, but it is a struggle to keep the Hawaiian tongue from disappearing. There are only about 9,000 Hawaiians left, and most of them are of mixed parentage. Only about 1,000 are pure Hawaiians. The names of cities, streets, mountains, bays, islands and as many other things as can be worked out are Hawaiian.

This helps to preserve the heritage. The Hawaiians who are left in the islands speak the same kind of English as is heard in California. That's somewhat different from what is heard in Mississippi or Texas but is still easily understandable. In fact, it

may be more easily understood, even for a Mississippian or a Texan, than what is heard in Mississippi and Texas.

Last month the editors of the Southern Baptist Convention held their annual meeting there. We meet at the invitation of other editors in areas all over the country in order to get acquainted. The trip to Hawaii was delightful and one of the most enlightening that has been attended.

Hawaii is a mission field. It became a state in 1959; and, until then, was a part of the work of the Foreign Mission Board. It now is aided by work of the Home Mission Board.

The staff of the Hawaii Baptist Convention was always at hand with answers to questions. The chief executive of the staff is the first Hawaiian native to hold that position. He is Dan Kong, a dynamic man of Chinese descent. His enthusiasm has infected the islands, and Baptists there are bubbling. He is building on foundation laid by Edmund Walker, a mainlander now working with the Home Mission Board in Sacramento, Calif.

Mississippi has contributed a great deal to the ministry of the islands and to the ministry of Dan Kong. Mrs. Kong, a very gracious and able person in her own right, is a Mississippian, the former Mary Eleanor Bradock of Ripley.

I also have personal interest in the mission work of Hawaii, for an uncle and an aunt moved there in 1947 to serve as self-sustained missionaries. They planted their lives there, and the uncle, Robert McGregor, for whom one of my sons was named, died in December of 1983. He is buried in the Punchbowl, the national cemetery for military personnel on Oahu, because it was while he served at Pearl Harbor as a seaman that his interest in Hawaii was kindled. The aunt, a cousin, Mrs. Hazel Walker, an adopted

girl also of Oriental (Japanese and Korean) descent; and Hazel's son, Shannon, still live there, and are active in Baptist life at Kailua and Nuuanu churches.

My uncle who was quite a poet, wrote a song for the Hawaiian Baptist assembly, Puu Kahea. I visited there for the first time on this trip. My 83-year-old father, Robert's brother, made the trip to Hawaii also.

A number of Mississippians have served in Hawaii. John Armistead, now pastor of Calvary Church, Tupelo, was a pastor there. Joe Odle, former editor of the *Baptist Record*, served the Pearl Harbor church as interim pastor. Charles Jolley is another Mississippian who has served there.

Trish Simmons, now with the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, served in Hawaii until the illness and death of her mother caused her to return to the state.

Japanese and Caucasians make up the largest groups on islands, about 30 percent each. Other groups are Chinese and Koreans as well as some south sea islanders and the Hawaiians. It is a melting pot of nationalities which provides an interesting backdrop for life there. It is an engaging experience to gather with a group of Baptists and learn of the mixture of backgrounds that are represented. We had that experience on a Sunday night after church at a coffee shop. Many are first generation Christians.

Hawaii was a monarchy until late in the nineteenth century. The final monarch was a queen, Liliuokalani, who wrote the poignant song, "Aloha Oe," while held prisoner in her own palace before Hawaii was taken over by American business interests. They formed a republic, but that didn't last long; and the islands became a territory of the United States about 1900.

At this time of the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie

"WHEN YOU'VE BEEN PREACHING AS LONG AS I HAVE, YOU LEARN THE BEST WAY TO CATCH FOLKS AT HOME IS BETWEEN ONE AND TWO A.M. — THEY DON'T TALK MUCH EITHER!"



Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, it is fitting to call attention to the work of the Home Mission Board in Hawaii. We got to know a number of the Baptists. Dan Kong was ever present. His secretary, a lovely young Chinese lady named Susie Pang, was hostess for my family during the visit. Some are Oriental, some are Caucasian; and the work is alive, active, and vibrant. The sea, the coast, the mountains, and the foliage are all beautiful; but the most beautiful element of all is the work of Baptists in the islands.

One item that must be noted from the visit was the opening night's gathering at Hawaii Baptist Academy. Though the meetings are separate, it has become traditional for the editors and the state executive secretaries to meet at the same place and at the same time. These two groups and their families and their Hawaiian hosts made up a gathering of about

300 persons who met that night to sample food and culture from the many ethnic groups represented in Hawaii. It was an interesting and meaningful occasion.

And, by the way, for those who might not recognize the song, "Aloha Oe," it provided the tune for Baptist songwriter B. B. McKinney, who wrote new words and called it "He Lives on High."

Thanks, Hawaii Baptists, for a lovely trip. Other stories on Hawaii Baptists will be found in future issues.

It was a delight to meet Bertha Kim, who attended Clarke College with the *Baptist Record's* Evelyn Keyes and is a graduate of Mississippi College, at Nuuanu Church on Sunday night. On Sunday morning at Kailua Church I met Mississippians from Aberdeen, Columbia, and another city which has slipped from memory at this time.

Gambling bills are dead

Mississippians are fortunate that we have escaped the possibility for pari-mutuel gambling and a statewide lottery for one more year. Baptists particularly should be pleased that this is the case. With such a dominant Baptist population in the state, it is a reflection of Baptist wishes no matter what direction legislation goes. This year again decisions have been made in a responsible manner. Baptists and all Mississippians can be grateful.

To whatever extent the *Baptist Record* was involved in the process of once again stemming the tide of gambling in the state, we are grateful that we could serve.

There is an element in the issue for which there is reason not to be proud however. According to press reports, the primary supporter of the bill, Sen. Louis Fortenberry of Pascagoula, said he decided to send the bill to a certain defeat because he and his family had been receiving harassment at the hands of the people he termed "so-

called Christians." He added that people had called his wife anonymously and told her that he was bound for hell.

That is tragic. In the first place, none but the Lord himself and Fortenberry know for sure the heart of Louis Fortenberry.

We are called upon to witness, not to judge. If we are convinced that a man has not found the way of salvation, or if we even suspect that he might not have found it, then we need to witness to him of the love of God. To call his wife and tell her that he is going to hell surely does not demonstrate that love and therefore is likely to cause more harm than good.

Nevertheless, the bill is dead; and thankfully so. It will be back, however. Fortenberry said as much as he called for the fatal vote last week. Each year it gets harder and harder to defeat the gambling bills that promise Utopia at a time when money is desperately needed to fund worth-

while needs.

Gambling is not the way to provide the money, however; and now is not too soon to begin to get ready for the fight that is bound to be before us next year.

It will be much easier to keep it out than it would be to get rid of it once we have had gambling and become sick of it. Our legislators need to know that we just don't want it now or then, anytime, anywhere.

Since the above was written there have been further developments relating to the demise of the pari-mutuel bill. News reports on Feb. 28 and March 1 revealed that Sen. Tommy Brooks, the president pro-tem of the Senate, was arrested for allegedly seeking to make a deal with the Mississippi Horse Racing Association to ensure passage of the bill. Senate sources have noted that it was rumors concerning events surrounding the bill that caused its death. There had

been a question as to why the main supporter of the bill in the Senate would make the motion to kill it. Evidently it was because word of such activities was beginning to leak out.

It is to the credit of the Senate that it would kill the bill when activities such as were being rumored were noted. And in defense of the Mississippi Horse Racing Association, it must be noted that the news reports point out that it was this body that contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation after the association allegedly had been contacted by Brooks.

The whole thing, however, points up what the *Baptist Record* has been trying to say all along, and that is that illegal activities cannot be disassociated from gambling of any sort. The gambling interests may be as clean as can be once their business has been legalized, but they cannot control those who want to latch onto their enterprises in some way in order (Continued on page 8)

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Volume 109 Number 5

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union

Annual meeting

March 18-19, 1985

Theme: I'll Tell It Now . . .

Harrisburg Baptist Church Tupelo

Mrs. James Fancher, president

Marjean Patterson, executive director-treasurer

I'll Tell It Now . . .

Monday Afternoon Presiding, Mrs. James Fancher

1:45 Prelude

2:00 Praise Songs

I'll Tell It

Now . . . through my spiritual gifts

Prayer

Greetings

Business

I Told It Then . . .

I Tell It Now . . .

Prayer Calendar

Song

Telling It In Kenya

Greetings from the Rio de la Plata

Let's Tell Our Churches

Song

Special Music

Telling it Through Woman's Missionary

Prayer

Monday Evening

6:45 Prelude

7:00 Praise Songs

I'll Tell It Now . . . through my church

Prayer

I Told It Then . . .

We Tell It Now . . .

Song

Prayer Calendar

Telling It In Singapore

Song

Offertory Prayer

Offering

Special Music

Telling It In A Sister Convention

Prayer

Tuesday Morning

9:15 Prelude

9:30 Praise Songs

I'll Tell It Now . . . through my resources

Prayer

I Told It Then . . .

I Tell It Now . . .

Election of officers

Telling It To Students

Recognition of Missionary Parents

Song

Offertory Prayer

Offering

Telling It In Argentina

Planned Growth In Giving

Song

Special Music

Telling It Throughout The USA

Prayer

Tuesday Afternoon

1:15 Prelude

1:30 Praise Songs

I'll Tell It Now . . .

through our organizations

Prayer

I Told It Then . . .

I Tell It Now . . .

Prayer Calendar

Song

Telling It Through Mission Achievement

Telling It From Different Perspectives

Panel—June Whitlow

Doris Diaz

Mrs. Dee Gilliland

Mrs. Ashley McCaleb, Moderator

Many Dreams—Two Buildings

Song

Special Music

Telling It In India

Prayer

Diane P. Smith

Dr. and Mrs. Van Williams

Marilyn Hopkins

The Baptist Record

1984 statistics show lackluster SBC year

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Although gains outnumbered losses for Southern Baptists in the final statistical report for 1984, it appears the denomination generally marched in place following four years of significant increases.

Gains were recorded by Southern Baptists in the number of churches, total membership, Sunday School enrollment, Church Music enrollment, Brotherhood enrollment, mission expenditures, and total receipts. Losses were in baptisms, Church Training enrollment, and Woman's Missionary Union enrollment.

These figures are based on uniform church letters received by the research services department of the

Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Projections related to Southern Baptist programs were released in December based on the first 26,000 letters received from churches.

In the five program areas and in the number of churches, losses and gains varied less than one percentage point from the previous year. Baptisms, however, suffering the second consecutive loss, were down by more than 22,000, or 5.7 percent, from last year.

Church membership from the denomination reached a new total of 14,349,657 with a gain of 164,203, which is the smallest increase since 1978. Mission expenditures and total receipts increased respectively by 7.3

and 8.8 percent.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee expressed regret about the decrease in baptisms, but said he remains optimistic because of the contact he has had with Southern Baptist churches.

"I have discovered a renewed interest in Christ and in the preaching of the Gospel in churches where I have visited," Bennett said. "I believe the launch of Good News America, the denomination's plan for simultaneous revivals in 1986, will give Southern Baptists a new all-time high in baptisms. Good News America will again center our attention on reaching individual persons for Jesus Christ and (Continued on page 5)

Baptist Memorial educates FMB missionaries by tape

By Roberta S. Todd

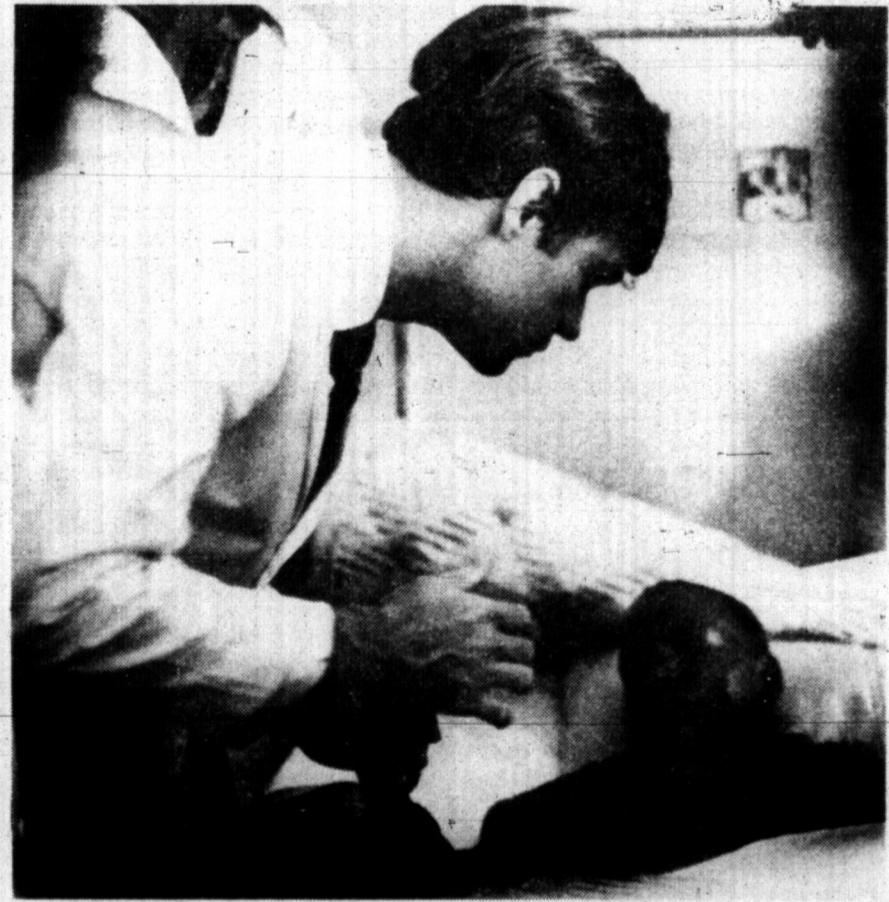
"Baptist Hospital is having a part in updating and training our doctors all over the world."

Hospital Vice President Steve Reynolds says the idea for cataloging and offering the educational tapes occurred to hospital administrators

when a doctor practicing at BMH, Al Weir III, became a missionary.

"Physicians are reluctant to go to the field for fear of falling behind," Reynolds says. Love agrees.

"Medicine has passed a doctor by (Continued on page 5)



Missionary physician Rick Goodgame in Uganda utilizes training tapes from Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis. (Photo by Warren Johnson.)

All-day training session is designed for small churches

A first-ever, all-day training session has been designed for all workers in Baptist churches with memberships under 150.

This size of church totals nearly 400 in the northern part of the state, where the meeting will take place, according to Chester Vaughn, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board program director, whose office developed the individualized training program.

A total of 23 specific church worker groups, including pastor and pianist, will receive leader training at the "Small Church Leadership Training Conference," March 30, at Blue Mountain College, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Saturday meeting will have two plenary speakers. James Travis, professor of Bible at Blue Mountain College, will be the morning inspirational

speaker. Closing the program will be Don Rhymes, minister of evangelism at First Church, Jackson.

Each of the following leader groups will receive study course training in the specified topics, with age group leaders receiving training aimed at their audiences.

"Basic Small Church Administration" will be the topic for pastors. For deacon chairmen, the topic will be "Deacons: Servant Models in the Church." "Small Sunday School at Work" is the name of the course for Sunday School directors, and Sunday School workers with adults, youth, children, and preschoolers.

"WMU Manual" is the name of the coursework for WMU directors, Baptist Women leaders, Baptist Young Women leaders, and Acteen, G.A., and

Mission Friends leaders.

"Plans and Purpose of Brotherhood" is the topic for Baptist Men directors. "RA Guide" is the title of the study for RA leaders.

"And the Music Director, Too" is the topic for volunteer music directors. And pianists will study "Five Practical Lessons for Church Pianists." Preschool and children music leaders will learn "Selecting, Teaching, and Leading Songs for Children."

And "Equipping for Church Training" is the title of the study for Church Training directors, Church Training leaders of adults, youth, children, and preschoolers.

Vaughn reports that a number of gospel quartets will be on hand for the musical portion of the program. Lunch will be provided.

Orientation set for Argentina volunteers

A final orientation session for volunteers planning to go to Argentina for the evangelistic crusades in June will be held April 9 at 7 p.m. at the Baptist Building. This is the group that Dan Hall, director of the Department of Church Music, will be leading.

This meeting was originally scheduled for March 12 but is being moved because it conflicts with the rescheduling of the annual Evangelism-Bible Conference, according to Don Mines, missionary to Argentina and Mississippi coordinator for the partnership arrangement with the Rio de la Plata. The Evangelism-Bible Conference had to be postponed from its original February date because of ice-covered roads across the state.

Other people who are going to the Rio de la Plata in April or May who have not had an opportunity for attending an orientation meeting would be welcome to attend this meeting in April, Mines said.

The April meetings in Argentina still need a couple of laymen, Mines indicated; and six could be used if they were available, he noted. The May roster is almost complete, and six to eight more volunteers will fill it, Mines said.

Tickets available for men's conference

Those planning to attend the annual Mississippi Baptist Men's Conference March 23 at Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson need to purchase tickets early, according to Paul Harrell, state Brotherhood director.

The conference begins this year at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 2:15 p.m. It opens with specialty conferences for special ministry interests and at 11:15 the banquet begins. At 12:30, the general session will include Owen Cooper of Yazoo City and James Smith, SBC Brotherhood Commission president.

Tickets for the luncheon portion of the conference are \$5 per person and may be obtained by writing Harrell at Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205. For details, phone 968-3800.

Evangelism Bible Conference First Baptist Church, Greenville

March 11-12

Monday afternoon session
Guy Henderson, presiding

"Following Jesus in Presenting The Gospel"

1:30 Proclaim the "Good News"
Instrumental Witness
Keyboard Witness

Ed Brashier
Alice Kathryn Turner
Irene Martin
Dot Pray
Cecil Harper

Vocal Witness
Prayer

Dan C. Hall, Leading
Malcolm McDowell

Congregational Singing
Message — "The Needs of the Helpless"
John 5:1-24

Guy Henderson
Dan C. Hall, Leading
Mississippi Singing Churchmen
Kathryn Barfield
Jack Stanton

2:00 Recognition and Introductions

3:15 Congregational Singing
Choral Message

Vocal Witness

3:45 Message — "Those Who Hunger"
John 6:1-14

Monday evening session
Keith Wilkinson, presiding
"Dealing with Difficulty"

6:30 Keyboard Moments

Nancy Riddle
Irene Martin
Dot Pray
Bobby Shurden
Jerry Swimmer, Leading
Malcolm McDowell
Jerry Swimmer, Leading

Vocal Witness
Congregational Singing

7:10 Bible Study

7:45 Congregational Singing

7:50 Witness Training

8:10 Congregational Singing

Choral Message

Vocal Witness

8:30 Message "The Frustration of Failure"

Vocal Benediction

Jerry Swimmer, Leading
Church Choir, FBC, Greenville
Myrna Loy Hedgepeth
Jack Stanton
Marian Lee

Tuesday morning session
Chester Vaughn, presiding
"The Social Outcast"

8:30 Keyboard Praise

Edwin Sudduth
Dot Pray
Irene Martin
W. C. Rainey, Jr.

Vocal Witness

Prayer

Congregational Singing

9:00 Bible Study "The Despised Tax Collector"

9:30 Break for Conferences

Milton Burd, Leading
Malcolm McDowell

(Continued on page 9)

Gambling bills

(Continued from page 2) to make illegal gains. Gambling preys on society from two directions. It tempts people to try to get something big from a small investment, which actually, taken across the board, never happens; and it provides the atmosphere in which illegal interests also try to get something big from small investments. This includes, among other things, illegal bookmaking, prostitution, drug traffic, and extortion.

It just doesn't pay off for society. Now it is coming to light that horse racing operations are falling into financial problems. As the race tracks grow older and deteriorate there are no funds to maintain them, and horse breeding operations are no longer making the profits that were once available. They are calling for tax breaks in some states to help them stay in business.

We don't need that sort of help in Mississippi. Our tax dollars are spread thinly enough as it is.

CHINA IN OCTOBER

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1984 statistics show lackluster SBC year

(Continued from page 3)
church membership."

Several of the increases in the programs included in the 10 key reporting areas were the smallest in several years, which could affect the desires of the denomination for dramatic increases in sharing the Gospel around the world.

The number of churches in the Southern Baptist Convention increased in 1984 to a new total of 36,740. This increase of 0.6 percent, or 290, is the smallest numerical gain since 1979. The church membership increase of 164,203, or 1.2 percent, is the same percentage gain as was predicted.

In Sunday School, the denomination's largest program, the ongoing enrollment was up by 0.5 percent, or 41,894, to reach another record total enrollment at 7,857,337. The actual total was 0.1 percent higher than the projected gain.

This year's baptism total of 372,028, has fallen from 411,554 baptism in 1982. The most baptisms ever recorded in the nation's largest protestant denomination was 445,725 in 1972. The drop in baptisms also is reflected in the number of churches reporting a baptism in 1984, when the total dropped by 0.7 percent to 29,850. This means approximately one-sixth of all

churches in the denomination did not have at least one baptism.

Church Training enrollment was down by 0.7 percent, or 14,483, in 1984, making the new total 1,972,907. This loss, which comes on the heels of four consecutive gains, is 0.1 percent more than the projected decrease.

The enrollment in WMU activities in 1984 lost 0.5 percent, or 5,724, making the new total 1,169,630. This was 0.2 percent less than the projected loss.

The Church Music program increase, the 19th consecutive gain, was the smallest numerical gain since 1977. The 0.6 percent, or 10,621, increase brings the Church Music enrollment to 1,667,385. The gain is 0.4 percent less than the predicted gain.

Brotherhood enrollment in 1984 increased by 0.5 percent, or 3,034, to a new total of 568,383. This is 0.4 percent less than the projected total.

Mission expenditures in 1984 increased by 7.3 percent over the previous year to \$568,059,173. This total is one-half of a percentage point more than was projected.

Total receipts for the denomination last year rose by 8.8 percent to a total of \$3,665,735,085. The actual gain was about one percent higher than predicted.

Lowry writes for the Sunday School Board.

Thursday, March 7, 1985

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Summary of 1984 SBC statistics

	1984	1983	Gain or Loss	Percent Gain or Loss
Churches	36,740	36,531	209	0.6
Baptisms	372,028	394,606	-22,578	-5.7
Total Membership	14,349,657	14,185,454	164,203	1.2
Sunday School	7,857,337	7,815,443	41,894	0.5
Ongoing Enrollment				
Church Training Enrollment	1,972,907	1,987,390	-14,483	-0.7
Ongoing Music Ministry Enrollment	1,667,385	1,656,764	10,621	0.6
Woman's Missionary Union Ongoing Enrollment	1,169,630	1,175,354	-5,724	-0.5
Brotherhood Ongoing Enrollment	568,383	565,349	3,034	0.5
Total Mission Expenditures	568,059,173	529,283,289	38,775,884	7.3
Total Receipts	\$3,665,735,083	\$3,370,450,615	\$295,284,470	8.8

CLC meet slated for Fort Worth

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Pastors, Christian ethicists, educators, and denominational leaders will address a variety of social and moral issues at a conference on "Applying the Gospel in the Local Church" March 25-27 in Fort Worth.

The annual seminar, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, will focus on current issues such as world hunger, abortion, peace with justice, alcohol, citizenship, drug abuse, and gambling.

Among the speakers will be Kenneth Chafin, professor of preaching at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Gordon Cosby, founding pastor of the Church of the Savior, Washington, D.C.; T. B. Maston, former professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Seminary; Lewis B. Smedes, professor of theology and ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif.; J. Alfred Smith, pastor of Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland,

Calif.; and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.

Registration is \$35 per person and

\$17.50 for spouses of registrants and for students. Write the commission at 901 Commerce, No. 550, Nashville, Tenn., 37203.

State gifts off to great start

If Mississippi Baptists continue their pace of the first two months of 1985, Cooperative Program giving in the state will exceed budget estimations by seven percent, according to

which, added to January's \$1,904,875, total \$3,083,742. This is 17.6 percent of the 1985 budget. Continued giving at this same rate would total \$18,502,452 for 1985.

The 1985 budget for the Cooperative Program in Mississippi is \$17,500,000.

At this time last year, total income was \$2,815,853. February's 1984 gifts totaled \$1,467,381.

Memorial educates FMB missionaries by tape

(Continued from page 3)
in four years (the normal term of service for a medical missionary)," he notes.

To keep up with advances and to maintain their standing with the American Medical Association, Love says physicians on the field are sent to continuing medical education conferences. In the last three years, the fellowship has spent about \$40,000 training and updating 53 Baptist medical missionaries at such conferences overseas.

Says Reynolds, "We just thought with all this information we've gathered, why not share it with all our missionaries?"

The response has been almost overwhelming.

The first letter requesting tapes that the hospital received after mailing a list of its resources to medical missionaries, was from Rick Goodgame.

Goodgame, a physician who teaches at a Ugandan hospital, wanted dozens of tapes.

"I nearly died," Love recalls. But BMH hardly batted an eye.

It was decided to put as many programs as possible on a tape and only send out several at a time to a doctor.

Love says the tapes sent to Goodgame will also be seen by scores of medical students and MDs in the African country. "Five hundred students and 300 doctors will see them the first year."

Hundreds of tapes have been requested so far.

"It's expensive," Reynolds admits, though most missionaries have ask-

ed for just those tapes relating to their specialties.

"At the outset we plan to offer the tapes for free, but eventually we might have to charge just for the cost of the tape."

"We also send out written materials."

BMH is owned by the Baptist conventions of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. It is the largest privately-operated hospital in the United States.

Love estimates there are 57 career physicians and 15 career dentists working in about 21 Baptist hospitals and 100 outpatient clinics. This is in addition to short-term Southern Baptist medical volunteers.

More than 1,000 national doctors and nurses are in training in Southern Baptist hospitals at any given time, he notes, which gives BMH's tape program even greater significance and an added dimension.

Roberta S. Todd writes for the World Mission Journal of the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Mrs. J. D. Grey, 79, Dies In New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Mrs. J. D. (Lillian) Grey, 79, wife of a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, died Feb. 23 in New Orleans after a lengthy illness.

She had been married to Grey, president of the SBC in 1951-52, for 57 years. They had twin daughters, Mary Beth and Martha Ann, and three grandsons. Grey is pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, New Orleans.

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Stanley willing to serve again

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Charles F. Stanley said he is willing to serve a second term at the helm of the 14.3-million member denomination.

Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, said: "I have been praying about the matter for some time. God has given me perfect freedom in my heart to serve again if someone feels led to nominate me and I am reelected."

The announcement ended several weeks of speculation as to whether Stanley would serve another term as president of the SBC. He was elected on the first ballot against two opponents during the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.

Under SBC rules, a president is elected to a one-year term, but is eligible to serve a second term, if he chooses. Until recent times, an incumbent president was usually reelected without challenge if he wished to serve. However, in the politicized climate of the convention during the past five years, two incumbent presidents have been challenged for election to a second term. Both, however, were reelected.

Stanley did not decide to allow his name to be placed in nomination in Kansas City, Mo., until hours before nominations were to begin. He said earlier the decision to allow the nomination came only after a powerful experience with God.

Since being elected, Stanley says he has "not spent one minute of my time talking politics. I did not do one thing last time (to be elected) and I will not do one single thing this time. Any politicking will have to be done by others on both sides."

He said while he is "willing" to serve as president again, he has "plenty to do. But if I am honest with God and with myself, I have to be willing to serve. If I am elected again, that will be fine; if I am not elected, that is still fine."

The announcement was made only a few days after Stanley exhorted Southern Baptists to measure their performance in comparison to the potential rather than past achievements. He said that while the denomination baptizes about 400,000 persons per year, that figure should be "in the millions if we live up to our potential."

In the sermon, he urged Southern Baptists to "do what we are capable of doing," and pointed to a simultaneous revival crusade planned for 1986, Good News America—God Loves You, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"What a great opportunity to shout to the nation, 'You are loved, just as you are!' I do not believe we could have come up with a theme more fitting than that for the day in which we live," he said, adding, in his opinion, no other denomination has ever had the opportunity facing Southern Baptists "if we obey God."

In the interview with Baptist Press, Stanley said he would like to use a second term to help "Southern Baptists mobilize to make an impact on this nation in Good News America. That is my primary concern, where I would spend my time, energies and efforts. I believe if we carry out that, there should be a healing. We cannot do that if there is ill will, resentment and bitterness.

"(To do that) we must be right with God, and we are going to get right with God somehow."

Stanley said "healing" has started in the SBC, which has been rocked by controversy during the past six years. "It is like healing of the body; it starts on the inside before it manifests itself on the outside. I am very encouraged by what I see. I have not let the supposed opposition to me concern my mind because my goal is not to win something, but to do something I believe God has called us to do."

"In spite of all of the conflict we have seen, we have agreed there are some problems. We have denied that before. We have to face those problems and I see some evidence of people who are now able to sit down and talk through the disagreements," he said.

...no other denomination has ever had the opportunity facing Southern Baptists'

Stanley added that "in some areas there must be give and take. I think there will be issues on which we cannot give and we must learn to live with each other in diversity. Some people will probably decide they can't live with that and have to do something else."

The pastor said he "still believes our view of the Scripture is the basic issue . . . the vital issue. I believe our attitude toward the Scripture will determine how God blesses us. When other denominations have departed from the authentic word of God, there has been a diminishing of God's blessings on them."

"I cannot compromise my faith in the authenticity of the word of God under any conditions," he said, adding the leaders of the SBC agencies he has met do not appear to differ significantly from his view. "I have not met all of them, though," he said.

He added he "knows there is not going to be wholehearted agreement" on issues within the convention, but reiterated the "authenticity of the Scriptures is something we cannot give on. If someone is totally committed to a liberal viewpoint, he may be happier somewhere else."

Stanley commented that in the midst of the controversy "the angrier some people get the more intense the

(Continued on page 8)

Chapel for the Deaf is "a dream come true"

By Betty Smith

Are prayers answered? Do dreams come true? Ask deaf members of Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson and they'll quickly answer "yes" to both questions.

One of those dreams, long held by hearing as well as deaf members of the north Jackson church, became reality on the last Sunday of October when the Chapel for the Deaf was dedicated. The chapel, which seats approximately 75, is located on the third floor of the educational building.

That Sunday afternoon, the chapel was filled to capacity as hearing members gathered with deaf members and their friends and families to dedicate the chapel "to the glory of God."

Three special groups, which help support the deaf ministry financially, were represented. Jerry St. John, director of language missions for South Carolina Baptists, represented the Home Mission Board. St. John had just concluded a weekend revival for the deaf at Woodland Hills with the Sunday morning worship service.

J. W. Brister brought greetings from the Hinds-Madison Association; John McBride, director of the Cooperative Missions Department, represented the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The dedication message was given by Bill Fuller, pastor of Woodland Hills.

Deaf members are proud of their beautiful blue and white chapel, and well they should be—for their memorial gifts and gifts in honor of relatives and friends furnished it almost completely. Gifts include everything from the pulpit furniture, to the pews, the windows and shutters.

Even the stained glass windows on the doors opening into the chapel are memorial gifts. Several hearing friends also shared in providing memorial gifts. A bronze plaque displayed in the chapel lists the gifts.

Woodland Hills has a long, proud history in its ministry with deaf persons. Clifford Bruffey, himself deaf, began the ministry in January, 1961. Bruffey, who was minister to the deaf for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, saw the need for a Sunday School class for deaf adults in Jackson. After talking with then-pastor of Woodland Hills, Fuller B. Saunders, Bruffey began the Sunday School class, teaching for several months until he became chaplain at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C. (Gallaudet is a college for the deaf.)

Since that beginning, the ministry has grown into a full program for children and adults. There is a place for everyone—from five-year-olds Scott and Melinda in their first year at the Mississippi School for the Deaf, to teenagers, young couples with children, to Mrs. Shearer and Mrs. Goodwin, senior adults, who have set faithful examples through the years. The four Sunday School departments meet in newly decorated rooms on the third floor, near the chapel.

Of the seven Sunday School teachers, five are deaf. A recently-installed elevator makes the Sunday School rooms and chapel easily accessible.

Another answered prayer, a dream become reality, was the calling of



Hands of Praise Choir Sings.

Tom Berry, Woodland Hills' first minister to the deaf, in July, 1982. Under Berry's leadership the program has shown steady growth and expansion. Berry preaches in sign language for the Sunday morning worship service in the chapel, and directs the entire program of deaf ministry.

Berry says, "Our ministry is with deaf persons—not to deaf persons. Ours is a partnership between deaf and hearing to reach and minister to other deaf persons."

Other services and activities of the church are interpreted, complying with the wishes of deaf members. In preparing for the calling of a minister, one deaf member of the committee spoke for all when he said, "We want some separate worship services, but we want to be with our hearing friends for some of the services."

The Hands of Praise Choir was organized last fall, under the leadership of Rhonda Eldridge. The choir

sings in the morning worship service and with the hearing choir on occasion. The choir also performed at the Metrocenter Mall during the Christmas holidays. Future plans include the organization of a youth choir made up of young people from the School for the Deaf.

A sign language class is taught on Sunday night with more than twenty members. From this class and others will come future Sunday School teachers and interpreters.

Fuller says that "deaf members are a vital part of our entire church program. They fill important places of leadership—one has been a deacon for several years, others teach Sunday School classes, visit on behalf of the church."

Betty Smith, secretary for the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, is a competent "signer," and works in the deaf ministry at Woodland Hills Church, Jackson.

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Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

Volunteers dispense large doses of love

Pushing a coffee cart can be a ministry. Audrey Ferguson proves that every Thursday at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. When she arrives with the cart at the waiting room for intensive care, she not only serves coffee to family or friends. She also hands out napkins decorated with Scripture verse stickers. And she brings with her the cheer of fresh flowers. If she does not have flowers of her own to set on the cart, she collects them from her neighbors.

"She works graciously, effectively, thoroughly," said Katherine Feldman, director of volunteers. Mrs. Feldman said that Audrey's philosophy of ministry is the same as that of the late Mrs. George Meek, who worked for many years with the hospital auxiliary. "Ours is a service organization," she said.

Volunteers in the auxiliary, who work without pay, deliver coffee to families of surgical patients and mail to patients. They visit the patients to deliver juice or to ask if they can perform any personal service for them or their families. They visit the emergency room to see if they can help family members in any way, especially if there is a death. They do the same for family members (often from out of town) in waiting rooms for intensive care and coronary care units. They escort patients to physical therapy. They "welcome" patients to the hospital—help them "get admitted." They assist patients with purchases from the gift shop, and deliver magazines and books to waiting rooms and to patients, at their request.

The Hostess Department, through

which this service is channeled and which Mrs. Feldman directs, sends a flower to any patient who has a birthday during his or her hospital stay. When gowns appear in the "lost and found" collection, the Hostess Department gives some to patients in need of them and sends the surplus to Hinds Baptist Center.

Mrs. Lucille Parker, whose late husband, James Parker, was long-time chaplain at the hospital, makes attractive Scripture cards which are distributed by the volunteer visitors. "These have meant a great deal to many people," said Mrs. Feldman. "We have received numerous testimonies concerning them."

Through the ministers' file, patients' church affiliation or church preference is on record. Thus, any minister can check to see if any of his members are in the hospital.

The auxiliary sells pot plants in the gift shop as a money raising project. Their profit is given to the hospital.

The Hostess Department gives \$100 a month each to the Hospital Guest House and the Hospital Hospitality House. The Guest House, located at the YWCA on State Street, is for families of out-of-town patients. The Hospitality House, at 833 North Jefferson St., is for seriously ill outpatients from out-of-town, those who need to stay near the hospital to receive chemotherapy or other treatments.

The Hospital Hospitality House, Gayle Browning, director, opened in its new location in January. Actually it is three houses, side by side, and provides 10 to 12,000 sq. ft. of space for staff, and residents referred by hospital social workers.



Audrey Ferguson, left, is one of the volunteers at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center who prepares the coffee and serves family members of patients in intensive care.

Mrs. Feldman, a member of Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, has directed the auxiliary for 14 years. The organization marked its 30th anniversary last fall. Mrs. J. M. Spell was its first president. The two directors who preceded Mrs. Feldman were Sue Gill and Mrs. J. B. Purvis.

Current officers of the auxiliary are Margaret Ishee, president; Audrey Ferguson, recording secretary; Ann Ross, first vice-president; Ann Drane, second vice-president; and Lucille Parker, corresponding secretary.

Recently an assistant director of volunteers began work — Margaret Armstrong, member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

"We are taking applications now," she said, "for Candy Stripers to work this summer." (Teenage volunteers. No pay. From age 14, through high school seniors.)

Candy Stripers do some of the same type of tasks that the older volunteers do. In addition, last summer Candy Stripers worked in the medical records library and in physical therapy.

The Hostess Department is on first floor of the hospital. Its windows overlook the parking lot. At one corner is a library, its books accessible to patients and their families. These books were donations from in-

dividuals. "We welcome donations, especially books of an inspirational nature," Mrs. Feldman said. "Books can be presented as memorial gifts."

Fifteen to 18 volunteers a day walk through the hospital's corridors, performing their services of love. Most are women. Some are men. The several couples include Mr. and Mrs. Wilson DeFore, Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Hendershot, and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Green. Most of the volunteers are Baptists, but sometimes other denominations are represented.

"We can always use more volunteers," said Mrs. Feldman, "to help in the gift shop or as visitors, so that all patients can be visited at least once a day." For information on joining the Medical Center's auxiliary, call 968-1210.

Letters to the Editor

Stereotypes of faith

Editor:

It was with real sadness and disappointment that I read the *Baptist Record* article (Feb. 14, 1985) concerning Pope John Paul's exhortation on penance and reconciliation.

The sadness arises from the fact that a beautifully pastoral, positive, biblical document is dismissed by a quotation of only part of a sentence taken out of context. Who among us could not be made to look silly by such methods? In the spirit of fairness, let's not attack straw men.

The disappointment lies in the fact that such an article fosters stereotypes of the faith of fellow Christians and fosters both division and misunderstanding.

Allow me to quote another sentence from the same document: "Unity must be the result of a true conversion of everyone, the result of mutual forgiveness, of theological dialogue and fraternal relations, of prayer and complete docility to the action of the Holy Spirit, who is also the Spirit of reconciliation."

Let us strive for true understanding of one another as followers of Christ. When we disagree, let us do so with conviction but in charity and truth. Robert Dalton
Field representative
Bishop's Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

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phasis, sponsored by the Home Mission Board, will also be conducting workshops.

Registration Information
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Katherine Feldman and Margaret Armstrong shelve books in the library, which is in a corner of the Hostess Department in the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

Ministers' wives request prayers for SBC session

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A request for "sincere and urgent prayers of all ministers' wives across our convention for the return of harmony within our fellowship," was the thrust of a statement recently released by the 1985 SBC Ministers' Wives Convention officers.

The statement was drafted when the officers met at Woman's Missionary Union national headquarters here to plan the 1985 Ministers' Wives Luncheon. The luncheon is held annually in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ministers' wives are asked specifically in the statement to "pray that the upcoming convention meeting in Dallas in June will be one in which the victor will be Jesus Christ himself!"

Officers also announced the theme of their luncheon as "Gifted." Approximately 25 gifted ministers' wives from across the convention will be featured.

Musical theme interpretation for the luncheon will be by two-time Grammy award winner Cynthia Clawson.

Officers are anticipating 1,000 ministers' wives at the June 11 luncheon, to be held at Dallas' Fairmont Hotel.

"We feel that women, regardless of their gifts, as Christians have prayer power," said Mrs. Earl Kelly, president. Mrs. Kelly is from Jackson, Miss. Mrs. Billy Weber of Dallas is vice-president; Mrs. Gene Garrison, Oklahoma City, Okla., is secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. William H. Camp, Opelika, Ala., is corresponding

secretary.

Tickets for the luncheon will be \$15 at the convention in Dallas. Advance tickets for \$12.50 may be purchased by writing Martha Garrison, 432 NW 17th, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73103.

The complete prayer statement follows.

"Knowing that 14 million Southern Baptists are looking to our husbands as exemplary leaders in churches, agencies, and institutions, we, the officers of the 1985 SBC Ministers' Wives Conference, do hereby request the sincere and urgent prayers of all ministers' wives across our convention for the return of harmony within our fellowship.

"Realizing that we are all subject to error and pride, we urge prayer for forgiveness, for humility, for unity of purpose, and for renewed power to follow the Lord's command to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel."

"Furthermore, we are aware of the tremendous accomplishments of women through the ages when their hearts were bathed in prayer and when their requests were according to God's great will and purpose for his work.

"We urge wives of SBC ministers to pray that the upcoming convention meeting in Dallas in June will be one in which the victor will be Jesus Christ himself!

Mrs. Earl Kelly, president

Mrs. Billy Weber, vice-president
Mrs. Gene Garrison, secretary-treasurer

Mrs. William H. Camp, corresponding secretary"



The officers of the SBC Ministers' Wives met recently at Woman's Missionary Union national headquarters in Birmingham to plan their annual luncheon which is held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention. WMU provides the women assistance and promotion in their planning of events. Pictured are the officers, left to right, Mrs. Gene Garrison, Okla.; Mrs. William H. Camp, Opelika, Ala.; Mrs. Earl Kelly, Mississippi; and Mrs. Billy Weber, Dallas.

BSU leaders will hear Swor, Cox at Gulfshore

Mississippi lecturer and author Chester Swor, and missionary Larry Cox will be the featured speakers during a weekend of leadership training for the Mississippi Baptist Student Union, March 29-31 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian.

Swor will speak on "The Cost of Leadership," and "The Crises of Leadership." Cox, missionary to Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), will deliver the missions message on Saturday evening.

The rest of the program will include business sessions where students from 27 campuses in the state will elect next year's officers and commission student summer missionaries they will be sending out this summer across the nation and around the world.

Music for the leadership Training Conference will be led by Bruce Fields, minister of youth and activities at First Church, Biloxi.

Daniel Hathorne, a student at the University of Mississippi, is state BSU president.



Swor Cox

Central, Brookhaven concert to feature Kim Wickes

Central Church, 749 North Jackson Street, Brookhaven, will present internationally known concert artist, Kim Wickes, in sacred concert, Sunday evening, March 10 at 7.

Kim Wickes was born in Korea in 1947. When the North Koreans invaded her village on June 25, 1950, a bomb exploded near the little three-year-old girl, permanently blinding her. She came to the United States at the age of ten where she was adopted by a Christian family in Indiana. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Indiana University. Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship she studied at the Vienna Institute of Music and Dramatic Arts in Austria.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Colleen Sellers Hutcheson; parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hutcheson of Saltillo; brothers, Russ Hutcheson of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Gene Hutcheson of Jackson; and grandmother, Mrs. Effie Francis of Saltillo.

She has appeared as guest soloist with the Billy Graham Crusade.

Central Church invites the public to

this concert. Paul Wilson is pastor. Ed Sudduth is minister of music.

1st, McComb joins team to establish church in Ohio

First Baptist Church, McComb, has entered into a working agreement with Highland Baptist Church, Grove City, Ohio, to establish a church in the Sawmill Road area of Columbus, Ohio, announced Alan Day, pastor. First, McComb, began this mission project in cooperation with the Home Mission Board and the Ohio Baptist Convention.

There are 20,000 to 30,000 people living in the Sawmill Road area of Columbus and there are no Baptist chur-

ches. First Church will take up to 100 people to Columbus during 1985. The teams will distribute Bibles, conduct door to door surveys, Bible School, musical programs, and evangelistic services.

The participation of First Church, McComb, is being co-ordinated by the missions committee, Keith Starrett, chairman, and Harold D. Fleming, minister of senior adults/administration.

Stanley is willing to serve second term

(Continued from page 6) verbiage becomes. That is part of it (the controversy)."

He noted he "is the same (theologically) as when I graduated from Southwestern (Baptist Theological) Seminary. But (since the SBC controversy has intensified) I have moved from being (being described as) 'conservative' to 'ultraconservative' to 'fundamentalist' to 'independent'. Yet I haven't changed a bit."

"When diverse issues rise to the surface, men of real character will be

able to respond in the spirit of love and honest discussion. But when there is bitterness and anger and resentment, ill will and jealousy, that says something about the character of the men involved. When that happens, they lose their usefulness before God. God can use a man who may be in error, but whose spirit is right, but a man who is right in his theology but wrong in his spirit is a hinderance to God," he said.

Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.

Prison Fellowship to hold seminar

William Carey College on the Coast will host an orientation seminar and workshop for Prison Fellowship, March 15-16.

The seminar will be led by Bert Everett, director of the organization which ministers to prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families, by C. B. Burt, retired prison chaplain, and Glenn Pearson, a layman from Hattiesburg.

The program begins at 7 p.m., March 15, and concludes the next day at 3 p.m.

MC offers course in religious journalism

"Religious Journalism" will be offered by Mississippi College this spring as part of its Programs for Adult Community Enrichment (PACE) series, and those interested should pre-register by Thursday, March 14.

The course is designed for those who wish to write for the denominational and religious press. Instructor for the course will be Kevin Jones, religion editor of the Jackson Daily News.

The course will meet on Tuesday evenings, beginning March 19 and continuing through April 16. Each session will meet from 7-9 p.m. Cost of the course is \$30.

For further details and registration, call 924-9766.

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Kim Wickes to sing in Crystal Springs

Kim Wickes, an internationally known blind Korean singer, will be in concert at First Church, Crystal Springs, on Sunday, March 10, at 11 a.m. She has sung on every major continent and has been featured at Billy Graham Crusades. The public is invited to attend. There is no charge for admission, but an offering will be received. Call 892-1149 for more information.

Evangelism-Bible Conference

(Continued from page 4)

9:40	Conferences
10:40	Break for General Session
10:50	Congregational Singing
	Vocal Message
11:05	Testimony
11:20	Message "The Woman at the Well" John 4:1-30 Benediction

Tuesday afternoon session

Keith Wilkinson, presiding
"The Hard to Reach"

1:40 Keyboard Witness

Vocal Witness
Congregational Sing-a-Long
2:00 Bible Study "Politically Powerful" Matthew 27:11-16
2:35 Break for Conferences
2:45 Conferences
3:45 Break for General Session
3:55 Congregational Sing-a-Long
Vocal Witness
4:10 Message "The Self-Sufficient" Matthew 19:1-10

Tuesday night session

Guy Henderson, presiding
"Jesus and his Disciples"

6:30 Keyboard Praise

Vocal Message
Prayer
Congregational Singing
6:50 Vocal Witness
7:10 Bible Study "Andrew" John 1:40-42; 6:8-11; 12:20-26
7:45 Congregational Singing from "Glory Songs" Paul Harper, Directing Choral Message Washington Association Choir
8:10 Message "Jesus Commands the Disciples" Bill Glass Vocal Benediction Mike and Teresa Harland

CONFERENCES

March 12 - 9:40 a.m. — 10:40 a.m.
2:45 p.m. — 3:45 p.m. (Repeat)

1. The Doctrine Of Christ
2. The Pastor As Bible Teacher
3. The Bible And Church Growth
4. God's Call To Give
5. Sharing God's Word Through Scripture Distribution
6. Using The Growth Spiral For Growth In Bible Teaching and Evangelism
7. Communicating The Gospel: Through Local Television Programming

Ray F. Robbins	Room Chapel
W. O. Vaught	420
Ron Lewis	410
James L. Powell, Jr.	115
Jerry Massey	312
James Fitch	Hospitality
Farrell Blankenship	124

Revival Dates

Pleasant Hill (Lincoln): March 10-13; W. Levon Moore, Kosciusko, director of missions, Attala Association, evangelist; Eugene Price, McComb, singer; Floyd F. Higginbotham, pastor; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; during week at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; dinner at the church on Sunday.

Dry Creek, Star/Brandon Rd (Rankin): March 10-15; Nelson Fortenberry, Magee, evangelist; Bob Allen, music director; services 7:15 p.m. with special music each night; David Hopkins, pastor.

Rock Hill (Rankin): Mar. 10-15; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Carey Cox, Brandon, evangelist.

Mt. Carmel (Smith): March 10-13; Sunday all 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m.; Bobby Warren, preaching; E. C. Tucker, pastor.

Hernando Church, Hernando: March 10-13; Larry Taylor, evangelist; services 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday; noon Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (meal served); 7 each night; Bruce Rice, leading the music; W. E. Corkern, pastor.

Pleasant Home Church, Laurel: March 10-15; during week at 7:30. Danny Henderson, pastor.

Macedonia (Calhoun): March 13-15; evening service at 7; Wayne Gullett, evangelist; J. Steven Evans, pastor.

Eden, Yazoo City: March 10-13; Ronald Burch, Eastside, Indianola, evangelist; Mrs. Melisa Hunt, Yazoo City, music director; Mrs. Ruby Doris Woodruff, pianist; Sunday services 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds, then 7 p.m.; week night 7 p.m.; Jim Pender, pastor.



The fourth Sunday in March is Start-A-Church Commitment Sunday. The special Sunday is an outgrowth of the 1983 Pentecost Sunday emphasis. Each year the Church Extension Division of the Home Mission Board encourages churches to consider making church-starting commitments. At least 1,000 churches must be constituted each year if Southern Baptists are to reach the goal of having 50,000 churches by A.D. 2000. These commitments are suggested on the commitment form for Start-A-Church Sunday. They are (1) try to start a new church-type mission (2) join with one or more churches in starting a mission (3) lead church membership to pray for a new mission congregation. A packet of materials is available to churches for use in promoting and observing Start-A-Church Commitment Sunday. For packets, persons should write Mrs. Reid Coons, editorial assistant, Church Extension Division, Home Mission Board.

Just for the Record

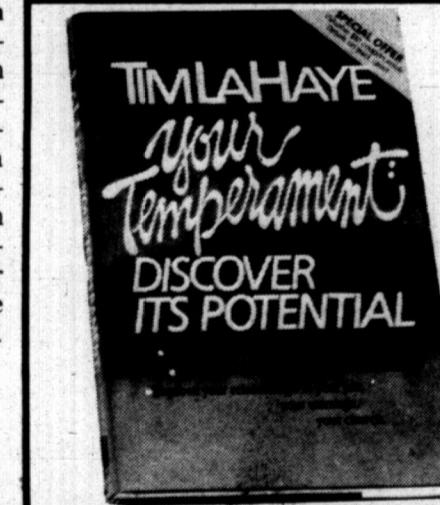


The Eddie Graves Crusader Chapter and Van Williams Pioneer Chapter of First Church, Ripley, observed Baptist Men's Day with a recognition and presentation service.

The Theme "New Horizons" was used as the Crusaders, Pioneers, and counselors marched into the sanctuary to the sounds of "Onward Christian Soldiers," accompanied by three RA boys on their brass instruments.

First Row: Brad Hurt, Jason McAlister, Jacob McAlister, Rob

Holditch; Second Row: Keith Aycock, Mike Britt, Chip Coombs, Paul Glissen, Lee Bennett, Nathan Cooley; Third Row: Sam Bryant, Matt Goolsby, John Britt, Jr., Shane Hill, Brigg James, Craig Heard; Fourth Row: Ricky Hurt, Larry McAlister, Brent Bryant, Brian West, Clayton Littlejohn, Phillip Heard, John Britt; Not Pictured: John Jones, Justin Mauney, Mike Mathis, Shane Crawford, Spencer Holley, Keith Elder, Lee J. Grisham, David Duncan, Ken Lence, Wiley Nance. John Britt is RA director.



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Devotional Games church members play

By David W. Spencer

Matthew 11:16-19



Spencer

Jesus loved children and taught us that we should never lose our childlikeness when it comes to trusting, loving, and rejoicing. However, he did not approve of **childishness** in human relationships or religion. He accused his generation of acting like spoiled children toward God's servants.

John the Baptist was too stern, harsh, and mournful to suit his generation. On the other hand, Jesus was too joyous, hospitable, and compassionate to suit them. They preferred to sit on the curb and criticize rather than to get involved. The end result was that they missed being a part of God's great Kingdom.

Jesus' generation was not the last one to play childish games and miss God's blessings. There are many childish games played by church members today. Throughout this month we'll look at some of these "games."

Have you ever played "Sunday Make-Believe?" This is the basic edition of church games and the object is to fool people into believing that you really care what God thinks or wants. Now here are the rules: (1) you can only play this game on Sunday morning; (2) there is a ceiling on the amount of money you can invest; (3) you must learn all the right "churchy" words; (4) you can only play this game on days when there is no other game in town; and, (5) you must get a Bible and bring it to church when you can remember where you left it.

Then there is the game called "Bible Wars." This game is for advanced players who can tell the front of the Bible from the back. The object is to defend your own lifestyle while attacking the faults of others.

Here are the rules: (1) you must not learn too much about the Bible because too much biblical knowledge might confuse you; (2) you can only accept interpretations of scripture by wild-eyed fanatics, television and radio preachers, those who can holler the loudest, and those who have a track record of tearing up churches. Under no circumstances should you ever trust anyone who spends long hours in Bible study, who reads books to see what great Christians of the past had to say, or anyone who has ever studied Greek or Hebrew! (3) You must never study the context of a passage or seek to understand the cultural setting in which a passage was spoken. This will only confuse you! Quote only the part of the verse which you feel proves your point; and (4) amass your proof-text verses and rapidly beat your neighbor to death with them. Above all, don't give them a chance to think or read for themselves.

When Jesus sees his church members playing such games, what does he think? He probably breathes a deep sigh and says, "Children, you're playing games!"

Spencer is pastor, First, Long Beach.

Staff Changes



First Church, Newton, has called Randy Cuchens as minister of music. He moved to Newton from Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula. He and his wife, Susan, have one daughter. The pastor of First Church, Newton, is Frank Harmon.

Cuchens

Charles M. Bagwell has moved from the pastorate of Mt. Vernon Church, Columbus, to that of Carriage Hills Church, Southaven. Bagwell is a native of Eupora and is a graduate of Mississippi College. He holds master of theology and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

He and his wife, Aurelia, have two children, both in college. Bagwell served at Mt. Vernon for eight years.

Arthur Middleton has resigned as minister of youth and activities at First Church, Amory. He has accepted the pastorate of Glendale Church, Corinth, Alcorn Association,

and began work there on Jan. 1 of this year. In his last Sunday at Amory, on Dec. 30, 1984, he was ordained to the gospel ministry.

Springdale Church, Ripley has called Raiford Bullock to become minister of music. Bullock goes from Shiloh Church, Alcorn County.

Richard Hill is the new pastor of East Mount Zion Church in Lee County.

David Smith has accepted a call to become pastor of Richmond Church, Lee County.

First Church, Greenwood, has called Al Finch as pastor. Finch, who is pastor of First Church, Prattville, Ala., has accepted the call and plans to begin his ministry in Greenwood on April 1. He was born in Laurel, and was graduated from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Finch held several pastorates in this state before moving to Alabama among them First, Canton, and Woodland Hills, Jackson. He and his wife, the former Frances Wicks, have two sons.

Wayne Cobb began work recently as pastor of New Faith Church, Pontotoc County.

He who waits to do a good deal at once will never do anything. — Samuel Johnson

Kennedy Falwell 'debate' turns into testimonial

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP) — U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy and Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell presented contrasting views on abortion and Reagan administration policy toward South Africa in a joint appearance at the National Religious Broadcasters convention.

But what had been billed as a debate instead turned into something of a testimonial and the ideological opposites traded warm compliments before a breakfast throng of 4,000 fundamentalist and evangelical broadcasters.

For the past 18 months Kennedy and Falwell have engaged in a political dialogue that began when a Moral Majority computer by mistake sent the Massachusetts liberal a membership card in the five-year-old conservative organization. As he came to the podium to deliver his speech, Kennedy pulled out the card and told the laughing audience, "I never leave home without it."

Kennedy recalled his highly publicized 1983 visit to Falwell's Liber-

ation Baptist College in Lynchburg, Va., as the starting point of a "remarkable time" during which the pair has forged a new friendship. "I have been in the home of the Reverend Jerry Falwell and his family — and he has been in mine," Kennedy said. "When my nephew died (Robert Kennedy's son, David, of a drug overdose), he was one of the first to call and offer his sympathy and prayers."

In his speech, Kennedy said that while religious values have an important place in public life, "the division is about where and how they should apply." He insisted that while "virtually no one doubts that civil rights is a public issue — or that murder is wrong," Americans "are plainly and persistently divided about whether abortion is the taking of human life." He then quoted colonial Baptist leader Roger Williams' warning "It is impossible for any man or for all men to maintain their Christianity by the sword, and maintain thereby a true Christianity."

Such a standard for interaction bet-

ween religion and politics, Kennedy continued, "does not seek conformity for the sake of uniformity, but unity based on respect for our diversity; it does not enjoin religion to be silent, but holds only that at times, the proper role of religion is to persuade the individual conscience, not to harness the coercive power of the state."

Although Falwell did not address the religion-in-politics issue directly, he reiterated his longstanding conviction that abortion, which was legalized in 1973, has amounted to the "destruction" of 15,000,000 "innocent human beings" and its ongoing practice invites "the wrath of Almighty God" on America.

He also said pro-life activists "must put our money where our mouth is" by providing "loving alternatives" for unwed pregnant women such as his own "Save A Baby" campaign.

Saying he is "hopeful" President Reagan will be appointing more Supreme Court justices during his second term, Falwell added, "We can hope for a pro-life court by 1988." He said while his own preference would be for legislation to outlaw all abortions, he would settle for exceptions for rape, incest and danger to the woman's life as a means to eliminate "convenience" abortions, which he said amount to more than 99 percent of the total number of abortions in the U.S.

Both men gave over extensive portions of their speeches to U.S. policy toward South Africa and its system of apartheid, or racial separation, with Kennedy assailing and Falwell defending Reagan administration policies.

Haste writes for the Washington Bureau of Baptist Press.

-Names in the News-



Bobby Kilpatrick, head coach of the Memphis State Tigers baseball team, spoke to about 100 members of the Singles and New Life classes of Sunday School at Calvary Church, Tupelo, on Sunday, Feb. 17. The New Life class includes people who have been either divorced or widowed. Afterward, Kilpatrick spoke at the church's morning worship service. He addresses 25-35 church groups annually, he said, to share his testimony. Although the Memphis State Board of Regents declared in 1984 that coaches cannot push their religious beliefs on college athletes, Kilpatrick said in an interview with Mitchell Diggs of the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal that "a coach's lifestyle and actions can greatly influence his players."

Matthew Lance Williams, was licensed to the gospel ministry on Feb. 17 by First Church, Gautier. He is a senior at Pascagoula High School and will be a student at Mississippi College this fall. His father, Billy R. Williams, is the pastor of First Church, Gautier.

George Robin Jumper was recently ordained to the gospel ministry by his home church, Bethel Church, Etta. Ed Thiele, professor of discipleship

at New Orleans Seminary, preached the ordination message. Jumper is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jumper of Etta. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and a candidate for May

graduation from New Orleans Seminary. Jumper serves as pastor of Little Bahala Church, Wesson, Lincoln Association. He is married to the former Terry Lou McDonald of Lumberton.



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Sunrise will break ground

Sunrise Church, Route 16, Hattiesburg, will break ground March 10 at 11 a.m. for a new sanctuary and educational facilities.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

FROM
Baptist Children's Village

P. O. Box 11308

Jackson, MS 39213

Tour groups welcome

The Baptist Children's Village welcomes visitors to all of our campuses—The India Nunnery Campus, Jackson; the New Albany Group Home, New Albany; the Farrow Manor Campus, Independence; Reedy Acres in Water Valley; Dickerson Place in Lincoln County; and Deanash in Stone County. We do request that you schedule an appointment time.



The Baptist Children's Village hosted the Hinds-Madison Baptist Pastors' Conference Monday morning, February 18. The meeting was held in Powell Chapel on the India Nunnery Campus. James Richardson, pastor of First, Madison, is the chairman of the conference. J. W. Brister is the Director of Missions.



Robert Wall (front right), Church Relations Director of Mississippi College; Robert Lambright (from left) retired Baptist minister, former legislator, and current men's Sunday School teacher at First, Jackson; and Ed Griffin, pastor of First, Ridgeland, are seen leaving Powell Chapel to board the bus to join other pastors and church leaders in a tour of the India Nunnery Campus.



Hinds-Madison Baptist pastors enjoyed a meal in Garrison Cottage (Joe and Dot Blakeney, Houseparents) on the India Nunnery Campus after an informational program under the direction of Kermit D. McGregor, Director of Public Relations, assisted by Karl McGraw, Director of Properties; Claire Nowlin, Social Service Director; and Henry Glaze, Director of Programs. Closing remarks were made by Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director.

Gifts of Honor and Memory

January 26 - February 25

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Linda	Claudine Davis	Al Fultz
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Stennett	Sue Reynolds	Mr. & Mrs. Garvin Knight
Mrytis	Mr. H. D. Browning	Mrs. Leware L. Metcalf
Vonnie & Eloyce Cothren	Friendship Sunday School, Valley Park	J. Vance Garner
Mr. Winston Elijah Abel	Paul Smith	Kay Carpenter
Paul Smith	Bobby Sykes	Mrs. Gates
Mr. Donnie Adams	Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Van Namen	Mr. & Mrs. Wade C. Donnell
Mrs. Jada Smith Adams	Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Ellison, Jr.	Mr. Billy Gist
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Minyard	Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Minyard	Mrs. Nannie M. Whitten
Mrs. Ralph Allen	Mr. & Mrs. N. M. Breland	Mrs. E. E. Blakemore
C. C. Reunion	William Ben Caraway	Mr. & Mrs. Garvin Knight
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Mrs. Sola W. Allen	J. T. Cauley	Mr. Robert Earl Givens
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James Andrews	Mrs. Rosa Lewis Cohron	L. W. Godfrey
Mrs. Leware L. Metcalf	Mr. & Mrs. Jack Liddell	Mrs. Ruby Goza
Mr. Robert A. Bailey	William Coleman	D. S. & June Bowering
Harmony Class, McComb	Mrs. Myrtle L. Adams	Foy A. Davis
Robert R. Dillard	Mrs. Nellie Commander	Mrs. Annie V. Grace
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Dillard	Mr. & Mrs. William R. Ford	Cascilla Baptist Church
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Mrs. Edith Beatty	Mrs. Pattie Ingram Cox	Mrs. E. L. Phillips
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Mrs. Geraldine Beavers	Mr. O. C. Crabb	Mr. & Mrs. Charley Ware
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Richey	Mr. & Mrs. Sam T. Carter	Mrs. Hattie Hamilton
Mr. Beck	Beth Crane	Ruth Sunday School, Marks
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Mrs. Sadie C. Yerger	Mr. & Mrs. George Myers	Mr. & Mrs. Earl Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Garvin Knight	Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell	Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hollingsworth
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Baptist Record

- Bible Book: *The mission of Jesus' disciples*
- Life and Work: *Humble service*
- Uniform: *Support for the new life*

The mission of Jesus' disciples

By Bill R. Baker

Luke 9:51-10:24

Jesus has been preparing His disciples for their mission in the world. There are two matters yet to be considered prior to His sending them forth. First, they must never become vindictive (vs. 51-56). Zeal without knowledge and compassion may cause one to become vindictive. When the disciples observed the insulting attitude of the Samaritans they wanted to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them (v. 54).

Jesus responded by saying, "You have the wrong spirit." The Christian witness must be prepared to face rejection without desiring retribution. Since Jesus did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them, his witnesses must be of the same spirit (v. 56). The Christian may often wonder why God does not come down in judgment upon the rebellious; however, today is not the judgment time but rather it is the accepted time, that is the time for salvation.

The disciples must also see the tragedy of becoming INDECISIVE (vs. 57-62). Just as there can be no retribution on the part of the disciples, neither can there be vacillation. Once the hand is put to the plow, there must

be no looking back. The effective witness cannot be on again and off again. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways (James 1:8). Rising above the spirit of vindication and vacillation, the disciples are prepared to go forth.

Sending forth the seventy (10:1-24). The seventy are sent forth before Jesus (v. 1) and in place of Jesus (v. 16). In this section one will observe specific guidelines by which the seventy perform their ministry.

The seventy are told the importance of PRAYER (v. 3). They are called to a giant job and much assistance will be required. If anyone is inclined to pray for additional workers it will be those who are already laboring in the harvest.

The seventy are told the importance of STRATEGY (v. 3). On this occasion the strategy called for carrying neither purse, scrip, or shoes. Evidently this would not be a long journey and they should not be cumbered by additional luggage. Later Jesus will refer to this event and, at the same time, change the strategy by calling for purse and scrip (see Luke 22:35-36). The strategy may

change, but the mission remains the same.

The seventy are warned of DISTRACTION (v. 3). When Jesus said, "Salute no man by the way," he was not requiring a rude response to other people. The Eastern salutation could become elaborate and ceremonious and could distract from the singleness of purpose in the mission.

The seventy are told the central PURPOSE of the mission (v. 9). They are to announce that the "Kingdom of God is come nigh."

The seventy are told the results of REJECTION (vs. 10-15). When one is sent forth to share the gospel message, he must understand the end results of one's rejecting that message. This understanding will create a greater concern for the unconverted.

The seventy return rejoicing in what they had done for Jesus; however, they are told to rejoice in what he had done for them—written their names in heaven (v. 20).

Baker is pastor, First, Clinton.

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Humble service

By James F. Yates

John 13:1-5; 12-17

It may well be that few incidents in the gospels more clearly reveal the character of Jesus and show more perfectly his love than does this one. Jesus and the twelve came to the upper room, a guest chamber in the home of a friend, according to Mark 14:14. His purpose was to eat the Passover meal with his disciples before he entered into his final agony and suffering on the cross.

He came to the upper room knowing full well that his "hour" to depart this earth to return to the Father would soon come. In this sense "his hour" involves both his death, resurrection, and ascension. Intermingled with his love was his disappointment and sorrow over Judas (v. 2).

Luke records that there had arisen a dispute among the disciples as to who would be regarded as the greatest in the coming kingdom. Even at the last meal together, within sight of the cross, the disciples were still arguing about matters of precedence and prestige.

In order to initiate his disciples into the mystery of his impending passion, Jesus symbolically acted out some tremendous truths. First, he "laid aside his garments" (v. 4), suggestive of the laying aside of his life for his own. Then he took a towel, poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet (v. 5). This strange behavior was completely unprecedented both because it took place during supper, whereas it was customary to bathe the feet before a meal, and because even Jewish slaves were not required to perform tasks so menial.

The roads of Palestine were unsurfaced and uncleared. In dry weather they were inches deep in dust, and in wet weather they were mud. The shoes the ordinary people wore were sandals; and these sandals were simply soles held on to the foot by a few straps.

They gave little protection against the dust or the mud of the roads. For that reason there were always water-pots at the door of the house; and a servant was there with water and a towel to wash the soiled feet of the guests as they arrived.

Jesus' little company had no servants, so the duties which servants would normally carry out must have been shared among each other. And it may have been that on the night of this last meal together, the disciples were so concerned with personal greatness that they felt it was beneath their dignity to supply this service for their Host.

The One who knew that God had given all things into his hands (v. 3) took into his own hands the implements of the lowliest slave—no crown or sceptre, but a pitcher and a basin!—in order to show that true greatness consists not in where one sits, but in how one serves.

Having finished his lesson, Jesus applied it (v. 12). Putting on his outer garments and resuming his place on the couch, he said, "You see what I

Support for the new life

By W. Levon Moore

John 14:18-27; 16:32-33

Our Lord knew that his followers would be weak and vulnerable as they sought to live their new life-style in a hostile world. Without a positive and continuous support system, they were destined to failure. Jesus did not desire that they fail. Therefore, he informed them that help would be provided and they would not have to face the challenges of life alone. The precious words of encouragement spoken by Jesus to his troubled disciples have brought inspiration and hope to countless multitudes through the ages.

The support which our Saviour promised his distraught disciples involves three things. Let us note a promise, a peace, and a presence.

I. A promise (14:18-26)

Jesus had earlier spoken to the disciples about the importance of loving him and keeping his commandments. He had stated that if they did these two things, he would pray the Father who would send a comforter to abide with them forever. He declared that the Spirit of Truth would dwell with them and be in them (14:15-17). The disciples were tremendously encouraged when Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (14:18).

The promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts and lives of God's people is the greatest gift of Christ to his followers. The validation of this promise is the resurrection of Christ from the dead. In verse 19, he said, "Yet a little while,

and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also" The very heart of the new-life experience was set forth by Jesus as he said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him" (14:23).

The indwelling Christ in the person of the Holy Spirit is the Christian's greatest source of support.

II. A peace (14:27)

Peace is a fundamental by-product of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The disciples were greatly troubled because of the words of Jesus concerning his immediate departure from their presence. They also were beginning to feel the pressure of those events which forecast the impending death of their master. Their hearts raged with intense fear like the raging of the sea in a storm.

Jesus knew that they were afraid, so he spoke words to calm their troubled hearts. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). These words have brought courage and comfort to troubled hearts in times of physical suffering, mental and emotional stress, sorrow, and death. They have, indeed, provided support for those who are struggling to find victory in the new life.

III. A presence (16:32-33)

The hour for Jesus' arrest was im-

minent. Huddled in the darkness at the base of large olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus used these last moments to instruct and encourage his disciples. They heard his voice, now perhaps hoarse and weak from the long discourses which he had given throughout the night. With calmness, yet with a sense of tension and urgency, Jesus spoke, "Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own and shall leave me alone: And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me" (8:32).

Alone . . . yet not alone! Left alone and deserted by his friends and followers, yet always strengthened by the presence of the Father. This was Jesus' experience on the night preceding his crucifixion. In one final sentence to his disciples he said, "These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (16:33).

Alone . . . yet not alone; fearful . . . but at peace; in tribulation . . . but cheerful. These are paradoxes of the new life. Yet they are all possible because of the support which comes from the indwelling Christ.

Moore is director of missions, Atala Association.

If men are so wicked with religion, what would they be without it? — Benjamin Franklin

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